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Council on Aging Minutes 05/19/2005

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING

27 Maple Street

Arlington, MA 02476-4909

Elizabeth McGaffigan, Vice-Chair

Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Regular Meeting of the Council on Aging, May 19, 2005

MINUTES

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Elizabeth McGaffigan, Robert Carey, Harry McCabe, Ann MacGowan and Shirley Chapski.

Absent: Ruth Palumbo, Mildred Hurd and Paul West. Lynne Larkin, Chair, resigned from the COA board on May 13, 2005.

Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director, and Charles Schwab, President, Arlington Seniors Association

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Elizabeth McGaffigan, Vice-Chair, presided and Shirley Chapski, Secretary, kept the minutes. A quorum of five was present. Elizabeth welcomed new member, Ann MacGowan

Minutes of the April 21, 2005 Meeting: Harry moved to receive the minutes of the April 21, 2005 meeting; Shirley seconded; all in favor. Harry moved to approve the minutes for purposes of discussion, Shirley seconded. There being no corrections to the minutes, all voted in favor to approve the minutes.

Executive Director's Report:

(1) John reported on Information and Referral Worker, Susan Isbell: she underwent surgery today and faces a lengthy rehab. In talking with Patsy Kraemer, he agrees that Susan's position cannot be held for her. Her sick time runs out soon and, as a part-timer, she does not qualify under the medical leave act. He plans to submit a Personnel Action Request in this fiscal year to fill this position. (2) The COA staff is concerned about reduction in services if cutbacks occur July 1st. (3) The Mini-White House Conference on Aging, sponsored by Minuteman Services, will be held at the Burlington Senior Center on Tuesday AM, May 24. Each of the 16 COAs in the Minuteman region will send three senior delegates. Kathy Gilligan, Joan Pippin and Harry McCabe have agreed to participate as delegates. There will be three speakers who will talk on Medicare, Social Security, and How Aging is Best Accomplished. (4) John said the staff is doing a tremendous job and complimented them on the quality of their work and dedication.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Harry reported that the Sevoyan Committee met at 6:30 PM this date and made an attempt to deal with the proposed Sevoyan Personal Needs Fund but there are some issues. John furnished additional information for review by the board which will be taken up at its next meeting.

OTHER REPORTS:

- COA Representative/Liaison to Minuteman Senior Services: Harry reported that Minuteman is making progress renovating its space in Burlington and will be operational from the renovated area in two weeks.
- COA Representative/Liaison to the Arl. Seniors Association: No report,
- Arlington Seniors Association representative to COA: Charles Schwab spoke on the Volunteer Recognition Supper on April 29 at the Senior Center. It went extremely well thanks to the efforts Bill Murphy and the committee. Due to a large donation of \$1000, the COA and ASA will only have to contribute \$318 apiece.

- Transportation Committee: A report of the Transportation Committee's May meeting was distributed and Bob spoke on the following points: (a) with the closing of Lahey at Symmes, the first priority is to see that those seniors whose doctors were with Symmes/Lahey, get to their appointments at Lahey facilities outside of Arlington; (b) the unmet needs of Arlington's seniors for transportation and how to reach seniors -- by word of mouth and visits to senior housing facilities to discuss transportation needs and options. John will work on times to meet at housing buildings to make a presentation; (c) COA has three vans one of which is almost 10 years old with 90,000 miles. All vans are equipped for handicapped riders but only 1% of clients are disabled enough to require this feature. Bob has been looking into purchasing either a new or used van perhaps without the handicapped accessible feature. (d) John is also looking into the possibility of the Arlington Senior Association using the COA vans for local travel.
- Sevovan Bequest Committee (SBC): Harry reported that at the May 19 meeting the SBC committee approved the Lahey Transportation proposal in principle with no money attached. John will make the suggested revisions to the document, will monitor the transportation expenditures, and furnish written quarterly reports. In the meantime, for transportation needs, including the Lahey transportation effort, he will have the use of the \$5,000 from the Transportation Subsidy Fund which was transferred from the Gift Fund by vote of the board at its January 20, 2005 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Suggestions for Summer Board Training: John proposed that over the summer months it might be useful for the board and him to hold workshops to go into some detail about the COA's agencies, programs, activities and budget. The board expressed interest in the concept and John asked that everyone bring their ideas on when to meet and what to discuss to the June COA meeting.
- Annual Meeting and Election of Officers: Harry recommended, and the board agreed, that the election be deferred until the September meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Shirley moved to adjourn, Ann seconded, all in favor.

Adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Shirley Chapski,
Secretary

Date of next Regular Meeting, June 16, 2005 at 7:30 p.m.